



CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT 1954

DR. J. TATE, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

R. A. JACKSON, SURVEYOR & SANITARY INSPECTOR.

CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.COUNCILLORS.PARISH.

J. Davies, J.P. (Chairman).	Llangattock.
A. J. Caine. (Vice-Chairman).	Llangynidr.
Col. P. Fisher, J.P.	Llangenny.
Alderman O. H. Williams, J.P.	Cwmdu.
L. J. Lewis, J.P.	Llangattock.
J. Mills Price.	Cwmdu.
R. G. Jones.	Crickhowell.
R. G. Davies.	Crickhowell.
W. W. Harris.	Llanbedr.
A. Lewis.	Llanelly.(Gilwern Ward)
W. H. Paske.	Llanelly.(Gilwern Ward)
W. A. Llewellyn.	Llanelly.(Clydach Ward)
A. Williams.	Llanelly.(Darenfelen Ward)
W. L. Powell.	Llangenny.
C. S. Farr.	Llangynidr.
W. Nicholls.	Partrishow.

OFFICIALS OF THE CRICKHOWELL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health.	J. Tate, M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Clerk & Chief Financial Officer.	E. A. Beech, A.A.C.C.A., A.R.V.A.
Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.	R. A. Jackson, M.S.I.A., R.S.I., Cert (Meat & Foods)
Assistant to the Clerk.	A. M. Brace.
Assistant Rating Officer.	V. M. T. Leslie.
Collector.	E. J. Hennessy.
Housing Inspector and Camp Manager.	M. A. Thomas.

3.

To the Chairman and Members of
the Crickhowell Rural District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Sanitary circumstances of the district, the health of the people and the work of the Public Health Department, during the year 1954.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members of the Council for their helpful consideration and co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health. Also, the Officers of the Council for their help in all matters appertaining to the duties of the Health Department.

I am,

Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

J. TATE.

M.B., B.Ch., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)	7,350.
<u>Number of Parishes:-</u>		8.
<u>Acreage:-</u>	According to 1951 census.	46,140 acres.
<u>Rateable Value as at 1st April, 1954:-</u>		£27,726.
<u>Product of a Penny Rate 1953/54:-</u>	Actual 1953/54.	£104.11.6d.
	Estimated 1954/55.	£104. 4.4d.
<u>Rate in the Pound:-</u>	1953/54.	£1. 6. 0d.
	1954/55.	£1. 6. 6d.
<u>Water Rate:-</u>	3/- in the £ with a minimum of £1.1.0d. per annum.	
<u>Number of Dwellings (including farms):-</u>		2,358.
<u>Number of Council Houses (included in above figure):-</u>		245.

Crickhowell is a large District in South Breconshire, mainly mountainous in character, with an acreage of 46,140 acres.

The District is divided into eight Parishes, Crickhowell, Llangattock, Cwmdy, Llangenny, Llangynidr, Llanbedr and Partrishow, which are mainly agricultural, and Llanelly which is mainly industrial. In the agricultural area the workers are employed mainly in farm work, forestry and quarrying. In the industrial area, the workers are employed mainly in adjacent coalmines in North Monmouthshire and in various new factories established since the late War in Brynmawr and North Monmouthshire. The Elvicta Handtools Company have established a new modern factory in Crickhowell.

The housing problem remains a most urgent matter, as indeed it is an urgent national problem. A large percentage of the existing houses particularly in the Llanelly Hill area, are occupied by more than one family and there is a large number of old sub-standard houses, which should be considered for demolition action when conditions permit.

The Council is pressing on building new houses, the chief difficulties being shortage of skilled labour, materials and suitable sites.

Tenants for new houses are selected by means of a Points Scheme adopted by the Council so as to allocate houses to families in the greatest need, conditions of existing accommodation overcrowding and health circumstances, all rating for "points award".

When new houses are allocated to applicants, their old houses are inspected with a view to their future use. A number of these houses then have a Demolition or Closing Order made on them, if they are unfit for human habitation.

The following Orders were made during 1954:-

		Number of	
		Houses.	Persons displaced
<u>DEMOLITION AND CLOSING ORDERS</u>			
(1)	<u>Housing Act, 1936.</u>		
	(a) Houses to be demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11.	3	3
	(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force.	3	14
	(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12).	6	14
(2)	<u>Housing Act, 1949.</u>		
	(a) Closing Orders made under Section 3 (1).	Nil.	Nil.
	(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3 (2).	Nil.	Nil.
(3)	<u>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953.</u>		
	Closing Orders made under Section 10 (1).	3	13

Two ex-Army hutted Camps at Dan-y-parc and Aberbaiden, are still occupied by a number of families, mostly from outside the Council's area. These Camps were built about thirteen years ago for the purposes of winning the War and were never intended to last. They are now in a very bad state of repair and far from weatherproof. They constitute a serious problem both from housing and Public Health points of view. Certain repairs have been authorised by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government to try and make the huts weatherproof. Numbers of families from other areas have been struck off their Council's housing lists when they occupied these Camps, and are not admitted to the Crickhowell Rural District Council housing list.

The number of huts in Aberbaiden Camp have been reduced by two during the year 1954. There were twenty seven huts in occupation at the end of the year. The number of huts in Dan-y-parc Camp have also been reduced by four during the year 1954. There were twenty two huts in occupation at the end of the year 1954.

Number of applicants for Council Houses on 1st January, 1954. 213.

Number of applicants remaining on the Council's list 31st December, 1954. 210.

Total number of post-war Council Houses 1st January, 1955. 243.

Number of Council Houses completed during the year 1954. 15.

6.

Number of Council Houses under construction on 31st December, 1954. 29.

Number of Private Houses completed during the year 1954. 8.

School Medical Service, Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, and the provision of school meals are carried out by the County Council.

The health of the District during the year has, on the whole, been good. There has been an absence of any serious outbreaks of epidemic diseases. The majority of the deaths during the year were in the higher age groups. The incidence of Pulmonary Tuberculosis has been low, cases occurring have been adequately and quickly dealt with by the Chest Physicians at their Clinics at Brecon and Pontllanfraith.

There have been no outbreaks of food poisoning during the year. The Council have adopted the Clean Food Byelaws under Section 15, Food and Drugs Act, 1938. Inspections have been carried out from time to time of various food handling stores, bake houses, licensed premises and shops selling ice-cream in accordance with the Regulations. Minor defects have been pointed out and corrected. It has not been necessary to take any legal proceedings under the Byelaws.

National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47.

No action has been necessary under this Section during the year 1954.

SECTION A.V I T A L S T A T I S T I C S .

<u>Population:-</u>	(Registrar General's Estimate)			7,350.
<u>Total Births:-</u>	Male 60.	Female 66.	Total =	126.
<u>Total Deaths:-</u>	Male 47.	Female 35.	Total =	82.
<u>Still Births:-</u>	Male 2.	Female 3.	Total =	5.
<u>Crude Birth Rate:-</u>				= 17.14.
<u>Crude Death Rate:-</u>				= 11.15.
<u>Infantile Mortality Rate:-</u>	(2 deaths)			Rate = 15.87.
<u>Transferable Deaths:-</u>	Inward 17. Outward 3.			
<u>Comparability Factors:-</u>	Births 1.12. Deaths 0.95.			

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.DEATHS.

<u>Causes.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
All Causes.	47.	35.
1. Tuberculosis (Respiratory).	0.	0.
2. Tuberculosis (Other Form).	0.	0.
3. Syphilitic Disease.	0.	0.
4. Diphtheria.	0.	0.
5. Whooping Cough.	0.	0.
6. Meningococcal Infections.	0.	0.
7. Acute Poliomyelitis.	0.	0.
8. Measles.	0.	0.
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases.	0.	0.
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	2.	2.
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3.	0.
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	0.	0.
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	0.	0.
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	2.	3.
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia.	1.	0.
16. Diabetes.	0.	0.
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3.	7.
18. Coronary disease, angina.	8.	5.
19. Hypertension with heart disease.	2.	0.
20. Other heart disease.	10.	12.
21. Other circulatory disease.	1.	1.
22. Influenza.	0.	0.
23. Pneumonia.	0.	0.
24. Bronchitis.	5.	2.
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.	0.	0.
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	0.	0.
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	0.	0.
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis.	1.	0.
29. Hyperplasia of Prostrate.	1.	0.
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	0.	0.
31. Congenital malformations.	0.	0.
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	6.	3.
33. Motor Vehicle accidents.	0.	0.
34. All other accidents.	1.	0.
35. Suicide.	1.	0.
36. Homicide and operations of war.	0.	0.

SECTION B.

Laboratory Facilities	= Public Health Laboratory, County Hall, Newport, Mon.
Ambulance Facilities	= Breconshire County Council Ambulance, stationed at Crickhowell.
Nursing in the Home	= Breconshire County Council.
Clinics and Centres	= Welsh Regional Hospital Board and North Monmouthshire Management Committee, War Memorial Hospital, Crickhowell.

SECTION C.INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NOTIFICATIONS. The following cases, other than Tuberculosis, were notified during the year 1954:--

<u>Diseases.</u>	<u>Number of Cases.</u>
Whooping Cough.	18
Scarlet Fever.	4
Broncho-Pneumonia.	2
Dysentery.	2
Erysipelas.	1
Measles.	1

TUBERCULOSIS. A schedule on new cases and removals from the Register is given below.

<u>New Cases.</u>				<u>Removals from Register.</u>			
Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
3	3	0	0	2	0	2	0

Number of cases remaining on Register 31st December, 1954.

Respiratory.			Non-Respiratory.		
M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
22	21	43	2	3	5

SCHOOLS. No schools were closed during the year 1954, in consequence of infectious diseases.

SECTION D.SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.W A T E R.

The following information is part of that supplied in September, 1954, to the Welsh Office, Ministry of Housing and Local Government, upon their request for details of the water supplies in the area of the Crickhowell Rural District Council:-

QUALITY OF SUPPLIES.

Piped supplies throughout the area are generally taken from local springs situated on hillsides and pasture lands, and their quality varies considerably throughout the year. Pollution from vegetable and animal origin is frequently evident, but there is no reason to believe that any contamination is derived from human source.

With the exception of the new system at Llangenny and Glangrwyney, put into operation this year, none of the supplies are treated.

ADEQUACY OF SUPPLIES FOR THE WHOLE AREA.

Shortage of water during periods of drought are mainly experienced in the following areas:-

CRICKHOWELL.

Shortage from local sources has been overcome by connecting the system to the Newport Corporation watermain in 1949. Use of the Newport water is only made when shortage is experienced, and this has not occurred since the dry summer of 1949.

BLACKROCK, CHELTENHAM, AND CLYDACH NORTH.

Shortage in this area is experienced at frequent intervals during the year, and it is hoped that this Authority will eventually bring water down from the Ffynnon Gisfaen springs higher up the Clydach valley. Discussions have taken place with the Ministry and neighbouring Authorities for a number of years in connection with these proposals.

GILWERN.

Shortage occasionally occurs in this area and is probably due to the considerable housing development, the installation of water carriage conservancy, the small diameter pipes on the distribution system, and leakages.

One source supplying the Gilwern area is obtained from the Hydram Waste and heavy rain causes severe discolouration to the water.

It is hoped to combine this area in the proposals connected with a new supply from the Ffynnon Gisfaen springs referred to in the preceding paragraph.

BWLCH.

The present source of supply begins to fail following two weeks without rain, and, therefore, seldom a summer passes without frequent periods of shortage of water in this village.

Proposals are now in hand, grant and loan has been obtained, for the installation of a new distribution system and the supply of water from a major scheme now being installed in the area of the Brecon Rural District Council.

BULK SUPPLIES GIVEN.

This Authority supplies only five properties outside their area, and these are situated in the area of the Brynmawr Urban District Council.

MAINS - TYPES, APPROXIMATE AGES, CONDITIONS, COVER.

The systems contain every size of pipe from $\frac{1}{2}$ inch galvanised iron to 6 inch cast iron, in various conditions and at various depths. In many cases there is no record of the type and size of various lengths of pipe.

SERVICES - TYPES OF PIPE AND CONDITION.

The majority of services are constructed of galvanised iron pipe, and their condition varies throughout the area according to age of pipe and quality of the water used.

WASTE AND WASTE PREVENTION MEASURES.

The maintenance staff consists of one Fitter and his Mate and they are employed full time on general maintenance of the various systems. No waste water Inspectors are employed.

TOTAL POPULATION SUPPLIED.

Population.	1944.	1954.
Population.	6,800	7,859 (Reg. Gen. estimate for 1953)
Population supplied into houses.	4,670	6,673
Population supplied by standpipes.	860	234
Total Population directly supplied.	5,530	6,907 (This figure includes 600 occupants of Court-y-gollen Camp)
Population without piped supply.	1,270	952

PARISH POPULATION SUPPLIED.

Parish.	Estimated Total Population.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Remarks.
Crickhowell	1,543	1,456	
Cwmdu			
Bwlch		138	
Tretower	781	82	
Cwmdu		130	Private Supply.
Llanbedr	237	54	
Llangynidr			
Lower	522	180	
Upper		226	Supplied by the Newport Corporation.

Parish.	Estimated Total Population.	Estimated Population Supplied.	Remarks.
Llangattock			
Ffawyddog	799	136	Private supply.
Llangattock		374	
Hillside		51	
Beaufort		43	
Estate			
Llangenny	345	187	Old scheme.
Llanelly			
Draen	3,564	43	Supplied by the Abertillery and District Water Board.
Wenallt		46	
Gilwern		638	
Low Pressure			
Gilwern		508	
High Pressure			
Blaenduar		382	
Troedyrhiw			
Waenavon		342	
Llamarch		72	
Waenlapria		493	
Heathbush		14	
Blackrock		97	
Cheltenham		565	
Partrishow	68	Nil	
Totals	7,859	6,307	In addition up to 800 persons can be supplied at Court-y-gollen Military Camp.

NEW SUPPLIES.

The Cwm Cegr Scheme, supplying the village of Llangenny and Glangrwyney, was put into operation in August, 1954.

The source, yielding at full capacity approximately 140,000 gallons per day at the small holding tank, is chlorinated and then distributed by gravity. Subsequent bacteriological examinations of samples have given negative results.

Service connections were installed as the scheme progressed and the following is the list of supplies made available:-

Dwelling houses	58
(including 5 with private supplies and not requiring a connection)	
School (unoccupied)	1
Public Houses	2
Farms	6
Factory (unoccupied)	1
Market garden and house	1
Churches	2
Total premises	<u>71</u>

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION REPORTS.Public Piped Supplies.

Supply.	Samples Taken.	Satisfactory.	Poor.	Unsatisfactory.
Bwlch.	1	-	1	-
Clydach. (Hafod)	1	1	-	-
Clydach. (Quarry)	1	-	-	1
Crickhowell. (Lower)	2	-	2	-
Crickhowell. (Upper)	2	-	1	1
Cwmdu.	2	-	-	2
Gilwern. (Brunant & Maesgwartha)	1	-	1	-
Gilwern. (Maesgwartha)	2	-	1	1
Gilwern. (Hydram)	1	-	1	-
Llangattock. (Cwmmonneu)	1	1	-	-
Llangattock. (Hillside)	1	1	-	-
Llangattock. (Tyle)	1	1	-	-
Llangenny. (Cwm Cegr)	2	2	-	-
Tretower.	1	1	-	-
Totals.	19	7	7	5

There is no evidence of any contamination from a human source, and it would appear that unsatisfactory bacteriological reports are due to animal contamination of surface water gaining access to spring water in the collection areas.

CHEMICAL ANALYSES.

Supply.	Samples Taken.	Result.
Llanbedr Public Supply.	2	Corrosive and treatment is recommended.

D R A I N A G E A N D S E W E R A G E .

The 1951 Annual Report contained a full description of all the sewerage schemes and disposal methods in the area.

CRICKHOWELL.

Efforts are still being made in an attempt to obtain financial assistance towards the installation of new works.

LLANGATTOCK.

The East Dock Engineering Company have been appointed as Contractors for the sewerage scheme to this village and will commence work early in 1955.

LLANBEDR.

It is hoped to treat the sewage of this village in a new treatment plant to be installed with the new housing estate, and so discontinue the use of the existing tank and soakaway that is liable to cause a nuisance.

Plans and documents for this scheme have been drawn up and placed before the Ministry of Housing and Local Government with a view to possibly obtaining financial assistance.

PUBLIC CLEANSING - REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The general scavenging service continues to function satisfactorily.

Of the two tipping sites in use, the one in the Gilwern area continues to cause a periodical nuisance to residents in that locality. Efforts to obtain another site are being held up owing to the land being part of an estate in the process of transfer.

R O D E N T C O N T R O L .

PEST ACT, 1950. A full time Rodent Operator is employed by the Council.

Infestation Treatments carried out during the year:-

Private Dwellings.....	226		
Business Premises.....	13		
Schools.....	1		
Sewerage Systems.....		Regular	Treatment.
Refuse Tips.....		"	"
Brooks in Villages.....		"	"

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Details of the routine inspection at the fourteen factories in the area are contained on separate Ministry forms.

F O O D A N D D R U G S .

FOOD CONDEMNED AND VOLUNTARILY SURRENDERED. The following goods were, on inspection, found to be unfit and were voluntarily surrendered:-

25	tins	Meat.
36	tins	Plums.
36	tins	Milk.
39	tins	Tomatoes.
15	tins	Peas.
48	tins	Sweet Pudding.
67	tins	Rhubarb.
16	tins	Tomato Juice.

4 tins Prunes.
 5 tins Pineapples.
 8 tins Soup.
 4 tins Cream.
 3 tins Oranges.
 6 tins Cherries.
 2 tins Beans.
 4 tins Grapefruit.
 9 tins Pears.
 2 tins Baked Beans.
 5 tins Apricots.
 4 tins Peaches.
 1 tin Irish Stew.
 1 tin Herrings.
 1 tin Sardines.
 1 tin Beef Casserole.
 1 tin Carrots.
 1 tin Fruit Salad.
 1 tin Brisket Beef.
 1 jar Potted Salmon.
 1 jar Horseradish Cream.
 1 jar Mixed Pickles.
 1 jar Horlicks.
 25 jars Fruit Chutney.
 17 jars Fish Paste.
 48 lbs Beef.
 5 lbs Jam.
 3 lbs Flour.
 28 lbs Cheese.
 116 pkts Custard Powder.
 54 pkts Assorted Fruit Shapes.
 48 pkts Figs.
 6 pkts Corn Flakes.
 1 pkt Grape-nuts.
 2 pkts Cheese & Tomato Spread.
 7 bottles Tomato Sauce.

MILK.

Persons registered as Retail Distributors of Milk purchased in bulk. 9

Number of Retail Distributors of Milk licensed to sell designated milk. 9

Samples of milk taken during the year, from the stock on the delivery vans of the above Retailers, have all given satisfactory results for keeping quality and, where applicable, negative results to tuberculosis.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Slaughtering took place on twenty six occasions at the slaughter-house of Mr. J. Price, High Street, Crickhowell, since the re-opening of these premises in July, 1954.

Consideration of the application for a licence for this slaughter-house was adjourned as, in the opinion of the Council, works were necessary to make the premises suitable for use. Notice was therefore served on the 8th June, 1954 under Section 57 (3) of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, to carry out certain improvements within nine months.

15.

The following animal carcasses were inspected:-

Lambs	155
Beasts	13
Sheep	46
Calves	10

and 16 lbs of offal was condemned as being unfit for human consumption.

SURVEYS AND INSPECTIONS.

The following is a summary of the inspections carried out during 1954:-

Detailed house inspections.....	789
Public Health Acts.....	363
Food.....	32
Factories.....	17
Complaints investigated.....	44
Scavenging investigations.....	9
Drainage investigations.....	80
Water Supply investigations.....	73

NOTICES SERVED.

Informal.		Statutory.	
Served.	Complied with.	Served.	Complied with.
29	27	0	0

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